

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

June 19, 1996

David Balfour
Commissioner
Metropolitan District Commission
20 Somerset Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Commissioner Balfour:

I write to strongly request, once again, that the sidewalks on the even side of Fresh Pond Parkway, between Huron Avenue and Brattle Street, be constructed in concrete, and that those on the odd side constructed in asphalt be reconstructed in concrete.

After several attempts to organize a meeting with the MDC, on June 11th @ 7:00 a.m. a meeting was held outside 72 Fresh Pond Parkway attended by over twenty (20) residents, Vice Mayor Born, Councilor Duehay, Deputy City Manager Rossi, Public Works Commissioner Dunphy, and staff from Mayor Russell and Representative Birmingham's Offices. Also in attendance was Neil LesPasio from the MDC. At this meeting, residents reiterated their concerns about the material and methods used to reconstruct the sidewalks along Fresh Pond Parkway.

The residents abutting this portion of Fresh Pond Parkway strongly object to the proposal for asphalt sidewalks to be installed on the even side of the street, and request that the sidewalks be replaced with concrete. In addition, the sidewalks that were replaced on the odd side of the street last year, much of which was originally concrete, should have been replaced with concrete as well, and not replaced with asphalt. Some residents have even expressed a willingness to pay for the

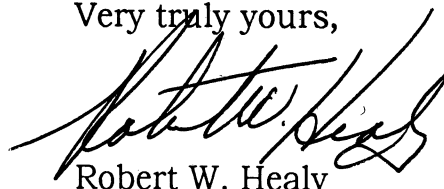
installation of brick sidewalks, if that is possible. Evidence exists that much of the even side is now, in fact, concrete.

When the MDC was developing plans to reconstruct the sidewalks in this area, the abutting residents were not consulted. In addition, neighbors have complained about the quality of the construction work that has been completed: work was done haphazardly and issues such as drainage and final landscaping have not been completed to property owners' satisfaction. Catch basins need to be installed in order to correct the drainage problems, and the curb reveal needs to be adjusted in many locations.

The MDC policy, as articulated to the City's Department of Public Works states, when replacing sidewalks within its jurisdiction, to replace surfaces in-kind. However, what actually happened on Fresh Pond Parkway is that in some cases, concrete sidewalks were replaced with asphalt - without prior consultation. This condition existed on both the even and odd sides of the street.

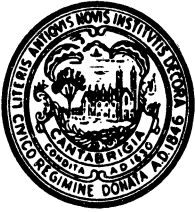
The residents of this area take great pride in caring for their properties, and would like to be consulted about changes which effect their property. Many residents on the odd side have evidence of severe street drainage and flooding problems which need to be addressed before construction on the odd side takes place. This problem has had much discussion in the City Council, and I urge the MDC to reconsider its plans for this area.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

cc: Cambridge City Council
Representative Birmingham
Avril Elkort, MDC Associate Commissioner
Robert Carr Jr., MDC Associate Commissioner
Darryl Settles, MDC Associate Commissioner
Charles Wu, MDC Associate Commissioner
Julia O'Brien, MDC
Neil LesPasio. MDC



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June 24, 1996

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report #8 regarding a request to the MDC to repave the sidewalks on Fresh Pond Parkway, between Larch and Grozier Road, to a more suitable substance, please find attached a letter to MDC Commissioner David Balfour on this topic, in follow up to a meeting held on June 11th.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", is written over the typed name and title.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Attachment

Consent Agenda #28

S-348

Relative to Awaiting Report Item
Number Eight, repaving the side-
walks on Fresh Pond Parkway,
between Larch and Grozier Road,
with a more suitable surface.

In City Council June 24, 1996

Placed on file